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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/822,349	04/02/2001	Yasuhisa Fujiwara	108198	1734
25944	7590	12/27/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			MOONEYHAM, JANICE A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3629	

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/822,349

Applicant(s)

FUJIWARA, YASUHISA

Examiner

Janice A. Mooneyham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on October 27, 2005, wherein:

Claims 1-14 and 18-21 are pending;

Claims 1, 4, 13, 18, 19, and 21 have been amended;

Claims 15-17 have been cancelled.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on December 6, 2005 is being considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-14 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeLorme et al (US Patent 5,948,040) (hereinafter referred to as DeLorme).

Referring to Claim 1:

DeLorme discloses a travel information providing center for providing user terminals with travel information, comprising:

a memory that stores information on registered members (Fig. 4 (411) Fig. 8a (806),

an input/output interface that receives a member ID from a user terminal (Fig. 1a (111) , col. 34, lines 26-36, col. 36, lines 57-63) ; and

a controller coupled to the memory and the interface, and that confirms the registered member based on the received member ID and prepares travel information based on the information regarding the registered member stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID, upon confirmation that the member is registered (col. 34, lines 26-36, col. 6, lines 8-46; col. 61, lines 5-26).

Referring to Claim 2:

Delorme discloses a center wherein:

the information on the member stored in the memory is the information on a home of the member (col. 10, line 59-col. 11, line 2, col. 17, lines 44-61; col. 34 line 26-36; col. 34, lines 26-36 address), and

the home of the member is set as a starting point on a route prepared by the controller as part of the track information (col. 10, line 59 thru col. 11, line 2, col. 17, lines 44-61, col. 22, lines 38-61; col. 34-, lines 26-56).

Referring to Claim 3:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein the input/output interface receives key information for specifying information requested by the member from the user terminal, and the controller prepares the travel information based on the key information (Fig. 1a, col. 6, lines 8-46).

Referring to claim 4:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein the key information is information on accommodation facilities and the controller selects accommodation facilities as part of the travel information to be provided, based on the member information stored in the memory (col. 6, lines 21-46; col. 8, lines 33-48; col. 61, lines 5-26):

Referring to Claim 5:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein the key information is information on tourist facilities and the controller selects tourist facilities as part of the travel information to be provided, based on the member information stored in the memory (col. 8, lines 33-48; col. 41, lines 6-66 Events of Interest).

Referring to Claim 6:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein the input/output interface receives a destination of the user input through the user terminal (Fig. 1a, col. 34, lines 45-56), and the controller prepares information on a route from a starting point to the destination as part of the travel information to be provided (col. 6, lines 8-46, col. 10, line 59 thru col. 11, line 2; col. 34, line 26 thru col. 36, line 25).

Referring to Claim 7:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein the information on the route includes at least one of information on the entire route and information on particular areas along the route (col. 6, lines 8-46, col. 9, lines 3-18).

Referring to Claim 8:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein the controller prepares, upon confirmation that the member is registered, the travel information so as to include route information and information on the locations of service providing facilities which are adjacent to the route and which are exclusively available to the member who has been identified based on the member information stored in the memory (Fig. 2, Register Now, Fig. 6, fig. 8A, Fig. 8B, Fig. 9A, col. 21, lines 27-52, col. 22, lines 38-61, col. 34, lines 24-36).

Referring to Claim 9:

DeLorme discloses the center further comprising:

a terminal that displays the travel information (Fig. 1a (111 and 121, Fig. 9B (907))

Referring to Claim 10:

DeLorme discloses a center further comprising:

a medium that stores the travel information: and

a terminal that reads the travel information stored on the medium and displays the travel information (col. 7, lines 22-34; col. 13, line 31 thru col. 17, line 13).

Referring to Claim 11:

DeLorme discloses a travel information providing center for providing user terminals with travel information, comprising:

a memory that stores information on the locations of information providing terminals installed at various locations (Fig. 1A, col. 14, line 43 thru col. 15, line 32, Fig. 3, Figs. 8A-8B),

a input/output interface that receives a member ID (Fig. 1a (111) and col. 34, lines 26-36); and

a controller coupled to the memory and the interface, and that confirms a registered member based on the received member and provides information to be provided to a user upon confirmation that the member is registered. (Fig. 4, Fig. 8A, col. 6, lines 8-46, col. 34, line 26 thru col. 36, line 25).

The type information provided is determined to be non-functional descriptive data that is not functionally interrelated to the structure and adds little, if anything to the claimed structure and thus does not serve as a limitation on the claims to distinguish over the prior art (See *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983)).

Referring to Claim 12:

DeLorme discloses a center wherein:

the controller provides information on the location of the information providing terminal that sent the member ID received by the input/output interface (Fig. 9A).

Referring to Claim 13:

DeLorme discloses an information providing terminal comprising:

an input device through which a user inputs a member ID of the user (Fig. 1a (111), Fig. 9a); and

a controller that provides detailed information on a vicinity of the information providing terminal upon confirmation that the user is a registered member based on the input member ID (Fig. 4, Figs. 8A-8B, Fig. 9A, col. 34, line 26 thru col. 36, line 25).

Referring to Claim 14:

DeLorme discloses an information providing terminal wherein:

the information provided by the controller includes at least one of information on the location of the information providing terminal and information on the vicinity of the information providing terminal (Fig. 9A, 9B).

Referring to Claim 18:

DeLorme discloses a travel information providing system comprising:

a terminal through which a user inputs a member ID (Fig. 1a (111)); and
a center having a memory that stores information on registered members and a controller that provides a registered member with travel information based on the member information stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID if it is determined from the member ID input through the terminal that the user is a registered member (col. 34, lines 26-36; col. 61, lines 5-26), wherein

the terminal displays the travel information provided by the center (Fig. 8A, col. 6, lines 8-46, col. 34 lines 26-36).

Referring to Claim 19:

DeLorme discloses a method of providing user terminals with travel information, comprising:

storing information on registered members (Fig. 8B (806), col. 34, lines 26-36)
receiving a member ID through an input/output interface from a user terminal (Fig. 1a (111), col. 34, lines 24-36, Fig. 3);

confirming through a controller that the user is a registered member with a valid member ID (Col. 34, lines 26-36), and

preparing travel information based on the information regarding the registered member stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID upon confirmation that the member is registered (col. 9, lines 3-18, col. 17, lines 14-43).

Referring to Claim 20:

DeLorme discloses a method of providing travel information comprising:
storing information on the locations of information providing terminals installed at various locations (col. 13, line 30 thru col. 16, line 31)

receiving a member ID through an input/output interface (Fig. 3, Fig. 8A, col. 34, lines 26-36);

confirming a registered member based on the member ID (col. 34, lines 26-36),
providing route information as travel information to a user upon

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confirmation of the registered member (col. 6, lines 8-46col. 15, line 14 thru col. 16, line 59); and

providing information on the locations of the information providing terminals which are installed adjacent to the route (col. 6, lines 8-46, col. 14, line 66 thru col. 16, line 59).

Referring to Claim 21:

DeLorme discloses method of providing travel information comprising:

inputting a member ID through a terminal (col. 34, lines 26-36);

storing information in a center on registered members (Fig. 8A (806) and col. 61, lines 5-26);

providing a registered member with travel information based on the member information stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID if it is determined from the member ID input through the terminal that the user is a registered member (col. 6, lines 8-46; col. 61, lines 5-26), and

displaying the travel information provided by the center (Fig. 1A, col. 9, lines 49-64).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 27, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

While applicant admits that DeLorme discloses a system (TRPS) that allows a user to access the system by using the user's code (ID) so that the system can prepare travel plans in response to user input inquiries, applicant argues that Delorme fails to disclose a travel information center that confirms a registered member based on a received member ID and prepares travel information based on information regarding the registered member ***that is stored in the memory prior to receiving the member ID*** upon confirmation that the member is registered, as recited in claim 1. The applicant asserts that DeLorme discloses a system (TRPS) that allows a user to access the system by using the user's code (ID) so that the system can prepare travel plans in response to user input inquiries (col. 16, lines 60-65).

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion and directs the applicant to column 60, line 38-47 and column 61, lines 5-26, wherein DeLorme discloses:

FIG. 8A outlines the preferred functions and data records involved in fully articulated online or Internet embodiments of the TRIPS invention. At 806, USER/MEMBER LIST includes user registration or membership enrollment data and services detailed heretofore particularly relative to 407 and 411 in FIG. 4 plus the USER REGISTRATION sub-menu within the HOW? main input menu at 163 in FIG. 1C. In the present disclosure, "user" and "member" correspond referring to the retail consumers of TRIPS travel arrangements, information, and planning services.

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In FIG. 8A, access to TRIPS' VALUABLE outputs is contingent on user registration or membership enrollment. At 806, state-of-the-art software enables subscription, user registration or client enrollment, user access controls such as passwords for signing on, and user/member list management functions. **Enrolled or registered TRIPS retail consumers can input individual profiles, preferences or personal travel planning operational parameters--i.e more or less global settings for subsequent implementation, automatically or by default, in the course of their individual travel planning sessions or specific component operations performed in TRIPS.** For example, a corporate client engaging a TRIPS online site to plan and arrange its employees' business trips can have its workers using TRIPS ***bound by standard profiles which specify preferred providers, impose budget limits, favor travel at certain times and otherwise encourage compliance with company travel policies. Individual user profiles save keystrokes and repetitive entry of routine information such as home address as departure point, nonsmoking preferences, preferred transportation modes or accommodation providers, even topical interests such as favorites foods, recreation or brands,*** and so forth.

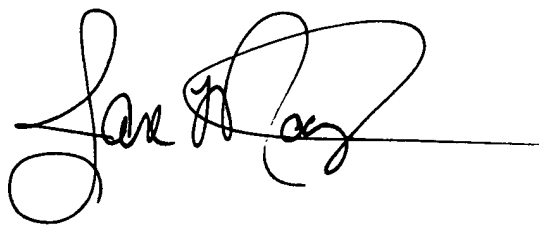
As for the applicant's argument that DeLorme fails to disclose providing information on locations of information providing terminals, the applicant is directed to the discussion in the rejection.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janice A. Mooneyham whose telephone number is (571) 272-6805. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Mooneyham", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jan Mooneyham
Patent Examiner
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